AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of cells for use in the production of at least one biological, said method being discontinuous and comprising:

a) culturing cells to form a preproduction batch,

b) dividing the cells of the preproduction batch into a first part and a second part,

c) employing said first part for the preparation of at least one production batch for the production of at least one biological,

d) employing said second part as a seed for the preparation of at least one subsequent preproduction batch,

e) optionally culturing the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch to obtain a greater cell population,

f) employing a first portion of the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch for the preparation of at least one subsequent production batch for the production of at least one biological,

wherein the cells of the at least one production batch of c) have a different passage number than the cells of the at least one subsequent production batch of f),

g) optionally repeating b) to [[e)]] f), wherein the repeating comprises

obtaining a second portion of the cells of the subsequent preproduction batch of d) or e),

optionally culturing the second portion to obtain a greater cell population, and

using the second portion for the preproduction batch of b).

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein:

a) said first part is transferred for the preparation of the at least one production batch, and

b) said second part is transferred to be used as a seed for the preparation of the at least one subsequent preproduction batch.

3-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage ~~part~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 2, wherein a first preproduction batch is prepared from a working seed stock by at least one passage ~~part~~.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the cells are anchorage dependent.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the anchorage dependent cells are derived from hamsters, monkeys, bovines, canines, humans, or chickens.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the cells are anchorage dependent, are grown on a substrate, and are released from said substrate prior to each transfer part.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the substrate comprises particulate matter or a solid support.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the solid support comprises hollow fibers or micro-carriers or macro-carriers in suspension.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the cells are embedded in a carrier.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the carrier is a ~~Cytodex-3~~ micro-carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the cells are released from said substrate with a proteolytic enzyme.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the proteolytic enzyme is trypsin.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the cells are treated with PBS and/or EDTA prior to exposure to the proteolytic enzyme.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the biological is a virus.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the biological is a protein.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the protein is an enzyme.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

a) the proportion of the cells of the preproduction batch forming said first part ranges from 80% to 90%, and

b) the proportion of the cells of the preproduction batch forming said second part ranges from 10% to 20%.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the cells are parked at a certain passage number by exposure to an ambient temperature ranging from 17 to 32 degrees C.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said parked cells are revitalised to log growth by raising the temperature and changing the culture media.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the cells are frozen at a temperature of less than -80 degrees C in bulk, and thawed prior to use.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 10, wherein:

a) the cells derived from hamsters are CHO or BHK-1 cells;

b) the cells derived from monkeys are Vero cells;

c) the cells derived from bovines are MDBK cells;

d) the cells derived from canines are MDCK cells;

e) the cells derived from humans are CaCo or A431 cells; or

f) the cells derived from chickens are CEF cells.

27. (New) A method for the preparation of cells for use in the production of at least one biological, said method being discontinuous and comprising:

a) culturing cells to form a preproduction batch,

b) forming at least one first production batch and at least one second production batch from the cells of the preproduction batch,

wherein the cells of the at least one first production batch have a passage number different from the cells of the at least one second production batch.